

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Call to Order: By Chairwoman Elsie Arntzen, on January 29, 2009
at 3:00 P.M., in Room 172 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Elsie Arntzen, Chairwoman (R)
Rep. Betsy Hands, Vice Chairwoman (D)
Rep. Gary MacLaren, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Arlene Becker (D)
Rep. Gerald Bennett (R)
Rep. Tom Berry (R)
Rep. Robyn Driscoll (D)
Rep. Bob Ebinger (D)
Rep. Robin Hamilton (D)
Rep. Pat Ingraham (R)
Rep. Mike Menahan (D)
Rep. Michael More (R)
Rep. Scott Reichner (R)
Rep. Michele Reinhart (D)
Rep. Diane Sands (D)
Rep. Gordon Vance (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Wayne Stahl (R)

Members Absent: Rep. Wanda Grinde (D)

Staff Present: Katie Butcher, Committee Secretary
Joe Kolman, Legislative Branch

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing: HB 230, HB 256, HB 321, HB 336
Executive Action: None

00:00:01 Call to order

HEARING ON HB 256

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:02:33 Rep. Gordon Hendrick (R), HD 14, opened the hearing on HB 256, Allow rural fire districts to charge fee for emergency services.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:06:55 Bruce Charles, Chief, West End Volunteer Fire Department, Mineral County
00:09:36 Jim Dusenberry, Montana Fire District Association
00:10:14 Mike McGinley, Commissioner, Beaverhead County, Montana Association of Counties, Dillon Volunteer Fire Department
00:12:31 Leonard Lundby, President, Montana Fire Alliance
00:13:17 Richard Van Auken, Chief, Teton County
00:14:59 Susan Charles, EMS, West End Volunteer Fire
00:18:17 Ted Liss, Board of Trustees, Madison Valley Rural Fire

Opponents' Testimony:

00:19:57 Richard Grady, Canyon Creek, Montana
EXHIBIT (loh21a01)
00:23:09 Bruce Spencer, Property Casualty Insurers
00:27:52 Greg Van Horssen, State Farm Insurance
00:33:31 John Metropoulos, Farmers Insurance Group
00:36:35 Kurt Bushnell, Central Valley Fire District, Bozeman, Montana

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:38:49 Rep. Ingraham
00:39:14 Mr. Grady
00:39:51 Rep. Ingraham
00:40:15 Chairwoman Arntzen
00:40:33 Rep. Ingraham
00:40:45 Mr. Charles
00:41:17 Rep. Ingraham
00:41:40 Mr. Charles
00:42:15 Rep. Ingraham
00:42:26 Mr. Charles
00:43:24 Rep. More

00:43:39 Mr. Charles
00:44:07 Rep. More
00:44:21 Mr. Charles
00:44:34 Rep. Berry
00:44:40 Mr. Van Horssen
00:44:43 Rep. Berry
00:45:22 Mr. Van Horssen
00:46:34 Rep. Berry
00:46:58 Mr. Van Horssen
00:47:20 Rep. Berry
00:47:31 Mr. Van Horssen
00:47:56 Rep. Hands
00:49:23 Mr. Van Horssen
00:51:15 Rep. Hands
00:51:43 Mr. Van Horssen
00:52:39 Chairwoman Arntzen
00:52:43 Rep. Reichner
00:53:22 Rep. Hendrick
00:55:17 Chairwoman Arntzen
00:55:28 Rep. Becker
00:56:10 Mr. Charles
00:56:13 Rep. Becker
00:56:18 Mr. Charles
00:59:05 Rep. Becker
00:59:14 Rep. Bennett
00:59:48 Mr. Charles
00:59:49 Rep. Bennett
00:59:55 Mr. Charles
01:01:04 Chairwoman Arntzen

Closing by Sponsor:

01:01:14 Rep. Hendrick

HEARING ON HB 230

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:05:51 Rep. Edith (Edie) McClafferty (D), HD 75, opened the hearing on HB 230, Revise local government employee incentive program.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:07:18 Sheryl Wood, Montana Association of Counties

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:11:27 Rep. Driscoll
01:11:40 Ms. Wood
01:11:56 Rep. Ingraham
01:12:41 Ms. Wood
01:13:08 Rep. More
01:13:22 Rep. McClafferty
01:13:37 Rep. More
01:13:42 Rep. McClafferty
01:13:51 Ms. Wood
01:14:22 Rep. More

Closing by Sponsor:

01:14:31 Rep. McClafferty

HEARING ON HB 321

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:15:32 Rep. Jill Cohenour (D), HD 78, opened the hearing on HB 321, Clarify local government authority regarding public water and sewer.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:18:52 Sen. Gary Perry, SD 35, Manhattan
01:20:43 Steve Kilbreath, Department of Environmental Quality
EXHIBIT (loh21a02)
01:23:51 Myra Shults, Land Use Consultant, Montana Association of Counties
01:24:22 Mark Aagenes, Montana Trout Unlimited
01:25:28 Steve White, Bozeman, Montana, Chairman, Gallatin County Commissioners
01:26:05 Walt Sales, Association of Gallatin County Agricultural Irrigators (AGAI)
01:26:35 Linda Stoll, Missoula County

Opponents' Testimony:

01:27:12 Abigail St. Lawrence, Montana Association of Realtors

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:29:33 Rep. MacLaren
01:30:03 Ms. Shults
01:32:07 Rep. MacLaren
01:32:20 Ms. Shults
01:32:52 Rep. MacLaren
01:33:07 Ms. Shults
01:33:25 Rep. Reinhart
01:33:55 Mr. Kilbreath
01:34:21 Rep. Reinhart
01:34:28 Mr. Kilbreath
01:35:02 Rep. Reinhart
01:35:35 Rep. Reichner
01:37:21 Ms. Shults
01:40:18 Rep. Reichner
01:41:15 Ms. Shults
01:43:02 Rep. Reinhart
01:43:20 Ms. Shults
01:45:55 Rep. Ingraham
01:45:59 Ms. Shults
01:46:01 Rep. Ingraham
01:47:24 Ms. Shults

Closing by Sponsor:

01:48:52 Rep. Cohenour

01:51:56 Break
02:00:17 Reconvene
(Rep. Hands left)

HEARING ON HB 336

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

02:00:42 Rep. Ted Washburn (R), HD 69, opened the hearing on
HB 336, Revise duties of fire district trustees and
boards.

Proponents' Testimony:

02:04:47 Kurt Bushnell, Central Valley Fire District, Bozeman,
Montana
02:05:45 Nancy Robertson, Bozeman, Montana
[EXHIBIT\(loh21a03\)](#)
02:07:53 Steve White, Bozeman, Montana, Chairman, Gallatin
County Commissioners
[EXHIBIT\(loh21a04\)](#)

02:19:33 Linda Stoll, Missoula County
02:20:39 John Barrows, Executive Director, Montana Newspaper
Association

Opponents' Testimony:

02:24:04 Mike McGinley, Commissioner, Beaverhead County, Montana
Association of Counties, Dillon Volunteer Fire
02:29:16 Richard Van Auken, Chief, Teton County
02:32:17 Susan Mergenthaler, East Gate Volunteer Fire Department
02:34:08 Dave Kraft, Sourdough Fire Department
02:40:38 Ted Less, Board of Trustees, Madison Valley Rural Fire
02:44:50 Ross Johnson, Manhattan, Montana

EXHIBIT (loh21a05)

02:45:21 Susan Charles, West End Volunteer Fire Department
02:47:06 Candy Rose, Sourdough Fire Department

EXHIBIT (loh21a06)

02:51:47 Jim Dusenberry, Montana Fire District Association

EXHIBIT (loh21a07)

02:54:48 Bob Drake, Chief, Tri-Lakes Volunteer Fire Department,
Montana Fire Chiefs Association
02:56:57 Victor Kelly, West Valley, Helena, Montana
02:58:26 Rich Meyering, Trustee and Chairman, Tri-Lakes
Volunteer Fire Department
03:00:03 Mike Doto, President, Silverbow Fire Council, Butte,
Montana
03:00:34 Tom Shindoll, Chairman, Broadwater Rural Fire District

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

03:01:36 Rep. Vance
03:01:47 Mr. White
03:01:48 Rep. Vance
03:02:20 Mr. White
03:02:54 Rep. Vance
03:03:20 Rep. Washburn
03:03:27 Rep. Vance
03:04:03 Rep. Washburn
03:04:24 Rep. More
03:04:50 Mr. McGinley
03:04:52 Rep. More
03:05:04 Mr. McGinley
03:05:07 Rep. More
03:05:19 Mr. McGinley
03:06:03 Rep. More
03:06:16 Mr. McGinley
03:06:53 Rep. More

03:07:16 Mr. McGinley
03:07:55 Rep. Hands
03:08:05 Mr. Drake
03:08:06 Rep. Hands
03:08:46 Mr. Drake
03:09:21 Rep. Hands
03:09:44 Mr. Drake
03:09:50 Chairwoman Arntzen
03:09:59 Rep. Driscoll
03:10:06 Mr. White
03:10:08 Rep. Driscoll
03:10:39 Mr. White
03:12:53 Rep. Becker
03:13:08 Ms. Charles
03:13:08 Rep. Becker
03:13:29 Ms. Charles
03:13:51 Rep. Becker
03:14:02 Bruce Charles, Chief, West End Volunteer Fire
Department, Mineral County
03:14:04 Rep. Becker
03:14:18 Mr. Charles
03:15:42 Rep. Bennett
03:15:52 Mr. White
03:15:54 Rep. Bennett
03:16:21 Mr. White
03:17:55 Rep. Bennett
03:18:08 Mr. White
03:18:46 Rep. Bennett
03:19:00 Mr. White

Closing by Sponsor:

03:19:29 Rep. Washburn
03:20:29 Chairwoman Arntzen
03:21:13 Rep. Vance
03:21:52 Rep. Hands
03:22:08 Rep. MacLaren
03:22:11 Chairwoman Arntzen
03:22:25 Rep. Vance
03:22:48 Chairwoman Arntzen

ADJOURNMENT

03:23:13 Adjournment

Katie Butcher, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT ([loh21aad.pdf](#))